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COLL. CAT. DEDICATION : SERVICES

===== OF THE =====

NEW YORK STATE

CUSTODIAL + ASYLUM

===== FOR =====

FEEBLE-MINDED WOMEN.

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NEWARK,

NEW YORK.

— JUNE 10, 1890. —

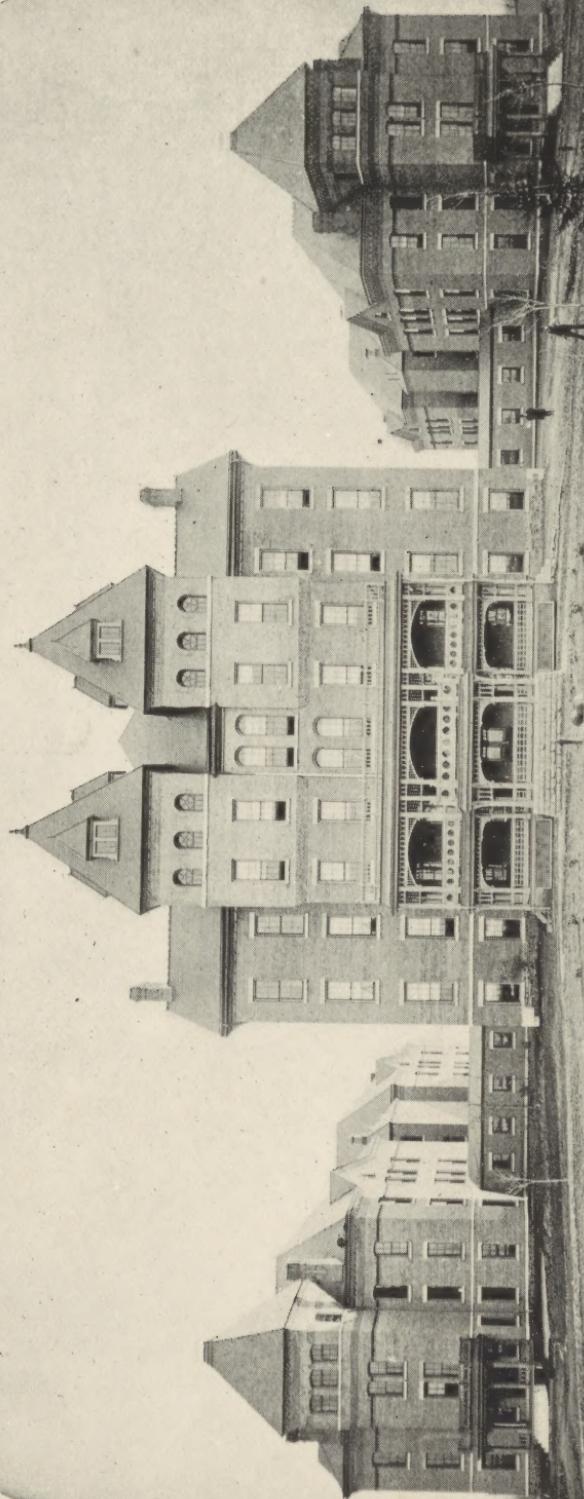
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NEWARK, N. Y.

M. C. & F. D. BURGESS, PRINTERS.

1893.



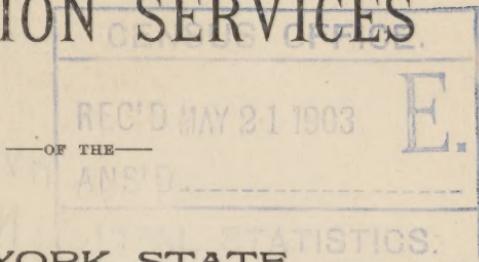




MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE NEW YORK STATE CUSTODIAL ASYLUM FOR  
FEEBLE MINDED WOMEN, NEWARK, N.Y.

W. H. G. & CO.  
PRINTERS  
1890

# DEDICATION SERVICES



NEW YORK STATE

# CUSTODIAL ASYLUM

—FOR—

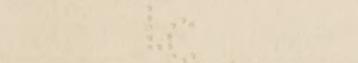
Feeble-Minded Women,

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- - -

NEW YORK.

JUNE 10, 1890.



NEWARK, N. Y.:

W. C. & F. D. BURGESS, PRINTERS.

1893.

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## TRUSTEES.

HON. DAVID DECKER,	-	-	-	-	ELMIRA, N. Y.
DARWIN COLVIN, M. D.,	-	-	-	-	CLYDE, N. Y.
MRS. HELEN B. CASE,	-	-	-	-	ROCHESTER, N. Y.
REV. MANLEY S. HARD,	-	-	-	-	BINGHAMTON, N. Y.
MRS. ELIZA C. PERKINS,	-	-	-	-	NEWARK, N. Y.
HON. E. K. BURNHAM,	-	-	-	-	NEWARK, N. Y.
HON. SILAS S. PEIRSON,	-	-	-	-	NEWARK, N. Y.
MRS. LUCY W. BUTLER,	-	-	-	-	SYRACUSE, N. Y.
SILAS N. GALLUP,	-	-	-	-	MACEDON, N. Y.

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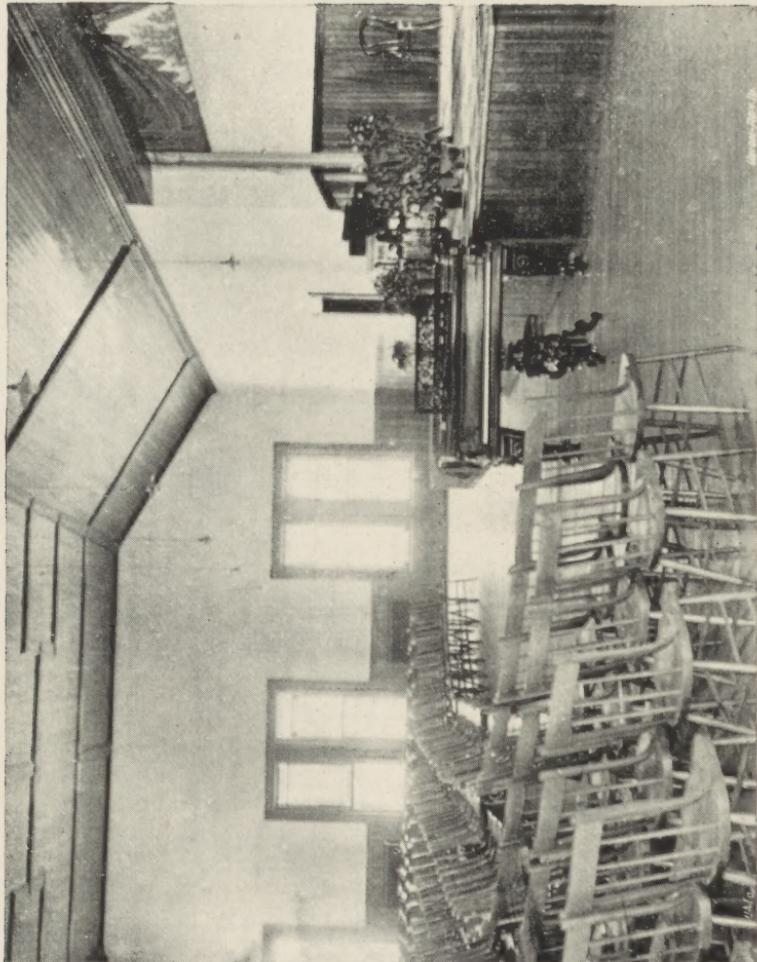
## OFFICERS.

HON. SILAS S. PEIRSON,	-	-	-	-	PRESIDENT.
REV. MANLEY S. HARD,	-	-	-	-	SECRETARY.
MRS. ELIZA C. PERKINS,	-	-	-	-	TREASURER.
W. LANDON WILLETT,	-	-	-	-	SUPERINTENDENT.
MRS. KATE ROSE WILLETT,	-	-	-	-	MATRON.
DR. NEWELL E. LANDON,	-	-	-	-	PHYSICIAN.





INTERIOR OF CHAPEL, WHICH STANDS BEHIND MAIN BUILDING.



# Act of Incorporation.

## CHAP. 281.

AN ACT to incorporate the Custodial Asylum for Feeble-minded Women at Newark, Wayne county, New York, and to provide for the appointment of Trustees and the purchase of buildings and grounds.

PASSED May 14, 1885 ; three-fifths being present.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1.—The Asylum established by the State Board of Charities, at Newark, Wayne county, for feeble-minded women, is hereby continued and shall be a body corporate, and shall be known as the State Custodial Asylum for Feeble-minded Women at Newark, New York, and shall be under the management and control of a Board of Trustees to be appointed as hereinafter provided, and shall be under the general supervision of the State Board of Charities.

§ 2.—The Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, shall appoint nine persons, three of whom shall be females, who shall constitute the Board of Trustees. Three of said Trustees shall be appointed for two years, three for four years and three for six years ; all appointments of Trustees thereafter shall be made by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate, and shall be for six years, except appointments to fill vacancies, which shall be for the unexpired term. Only said Board of Trustees shall have the custody

and control of all property, and power to make all rules for the management and control of the effects of said Asylum. Said Board of Trustees shall also have power to appoint one of their number President of said Board, one member of their number Secretary, and one member Treasurer. The Treasurer shall, before he receives any money, give a bond to the people of the State of New York in such sum and with such sureties as a majority of the Board of Trustees shall require.

§ 3.—Said Board of Trustees shall have power to appoint a Superintendent, a Matron, and employ all assistants that may be necessary for the proper management of said asylum.

§ 4.—The sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, out of any sum or sums heretofore appropriated for the support and maintenance of the inmates of the Custodial Asylum for the services of attendants therein, and for other necessary expenses and the ordinary repairs of said Asylum, until the close of the next fiscal year, may be expended under the direction of the Trustees of the State Asylum for Idiots, for the support and maintenance of such additional inmates of said Asylum for idiots as may by law be committed to its care, in excess of the number of such inmates for whose support and maintenance appropriations have already been made, and the residue of such appropriations so made for the purposes of said Custodial Asylum, and the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, which is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of said State Custodial Asylum for Feeble-minded Women, to be expended by him under the direction of the Board of Trustees thereof, upon the order of the President, counter-

signed by the Secretary, of said State Custodial Asylum, as the same may be required for the purposes of said State Custodial Asylum until the close of the next fiscal year.

§ 5.—The sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the State treasury not otherwise appropriated, to purchase and pay for the building and grounds now occupied by **said** Custodial Asylum.

§ 6.—All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

§ 7.—This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, } *ss.*

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

JOSEPH B. CARR, Secretary of State.

# The Dedication.

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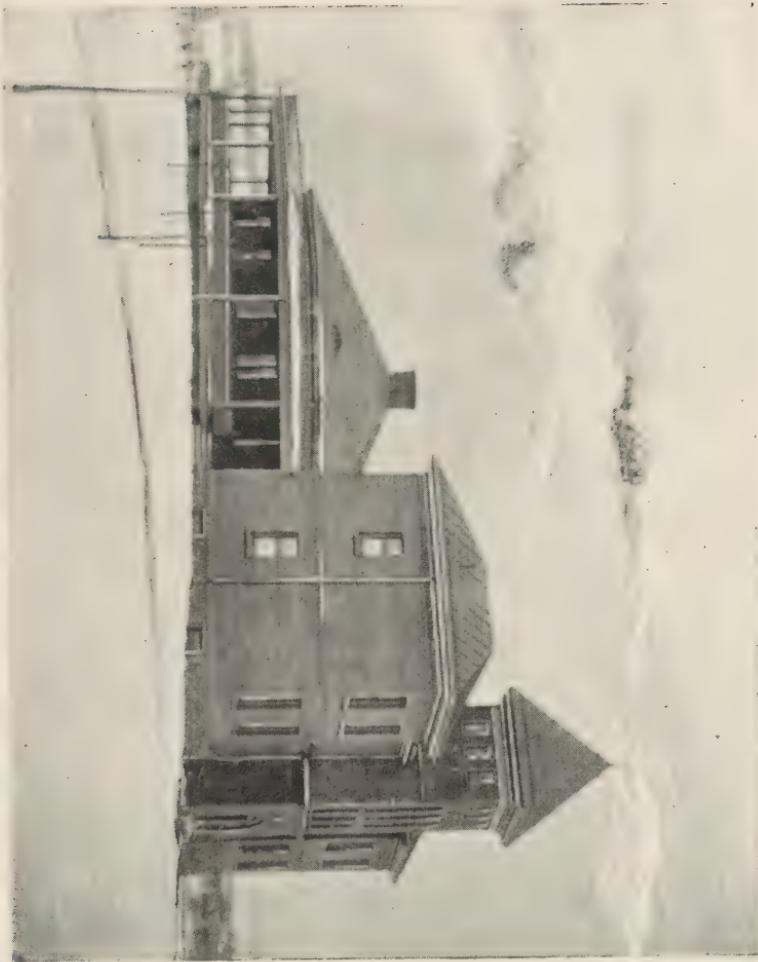
The following addresses were delivered in the chapel at the dedicatory exercises June 10, 1890:

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY HON. S. S. PEIRSON.

In presenting a short historical sketch of the history of the Asylum, I will first allude to the conditions that brought out the need of custodial care. Previous to the year 1851, the public charities of the state of New York consisted in caring for the insane, the deaf and dumb, and the blind. At the beginning of modern effort in behalf of the feeble-minded and idiotic, an unhappy fact was the existence of so large a class in every county in the state, of all ages and classes. "Society has always been blind to the existence of social evils until their magnitude made it impossible to longer refuse to see." The ratio of 1 to 1,000 showed that there were "feeble folk" in the state. The magnitude of the evil was apparent. Up to this time, the history of the efforts for the betterment of the condition of the idiotic in England furnished the best of evidence of the value of established asylums.

At first their institutions, like ours, were for insane, blind, and deaf and dumb. Later, they had built special asylums for custody, and our people began to realize that the time had come when a similar advance should be made in this country, where every person who had been denied the full gift of reason might receive care in accordance with the full dictates of humanity. The Legislature had several times been importuned, and the Governor had recommended that

HOSPITAL, NEW YORK STATE CUSTODIAL ASYLUM.





provision be made for still another class equally unfortunate—the idiotic. In July, 1857, the Legislature appropriated \$6,000 annually for two years, and the New York State Asylum for Idiots was established, and the city of Syracuse chosen for its location. (I shall necessarily refer frequently to this Asylum, as it was the guardian of the Custodial during the experimental stage of some seven years.) The projectors of this charity for the idiotic believed they could be educated to a certain extent, and in gathering in this unfortunate class, there was found at least twenty per cent. of the number that could not classify in this institution as teachable idiots, and as early as 1858 a crude idea of the benefits of a custodial home for the feeble-minded is shown in the report of Dr. Wilbur, the able and efficient founder of the Idiot Asylum. In his report to the Trustees, he says, "that the design and objects of this Asylum are not of a custodial character."

In the establishing of this Asylum at Syracuse, sympathies were not only enlisted, but a duty incumbent on State governments was recognized, and it is a matter of just pride to us that our Empire State was among the first to establish so humane a charity.

After twelve years of experience Dr. Wilber again reports:—"There are two directions that charity might take: First, a place for proper custodial management of the idiotic; second, education so far as possible." Five years later (1869):—"There is one class, constituting 20 per cent. of the whole number, who, in the absence of any proper custodial institution, are suffered to remain with us"; and he recommends that the law be so changed as to allow the Willard Asylum at Ovid to receive them. This recommendation was repeated again in 1870, when the State Board of Charities made substantially the same recommendations. In 1875 Dr. Wilber gained many valuable ideas

concerning charity work by a visit to Great Britain. During this year, at the instance of the State Board of Charities, a law was enacted to remove all children from the county houses. During the years 1876, '77, in consequence of this act and the activity of the State Board of Charities, the various Asylums were filled to overflowing, and recommendations from many Asylums, heartily endorsed by the State Board, were made to the Legislature of 1878, for greater accommodations. The joint action of the Syracuse Board and State Board is shown in the following minutes of the Secretary at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees, held at Syracuse, March 12, 1878. The object of the meeting was to be the consideration of the question of a custodial institution for the idiotic. A committee of the State Board of Charities, consisting of Mrs. J. C. Lowell, Mr. W. P. Letchworth and Mr. J. C. Devereaux, was heard at full length on the subject. After full discussion by the Board of the whole matter, it was resolved, "That we are willing to assume the responsibility of the management of a custodial institution."

It is well known that Mrs. J. C. Lowell, of New York, a lady well known throughout the State and Nation as well for her philanthropy, was the moving spirit in the State Board in urging custodial care, as was Dr. Wilber, also in the Syracuse Board. The result of their joint labors was an act of the Legislature, in 1887, appropriating \$18,000 "for the support and maintenance of adult idiotic and feeble-minded females, at an experimental Custodial Asylum, under the management of the Trustees of the New York State Asylum for Idiots." Before November, 1878, a building had been rented at Newark, and nine inmates received from county poorhouses and eighteen from the Asylum at Syracuse.

During the legislative session of 1878, the Hon. James

II. Miller represented this Assembly district, and did much to bring to the notice of the proper parties the then vacant building (the central one) which now constitutes the present group of buildings—A, B and C dormitories, chapel and dining hall, laundry, boiler-house and barn. The older citizens present will remember that the foundation and first story were built before the war, intended for a Baptist Collegiate Institute—funds failed, the work was suspended, and for ten or twelve years, there it stood, a monument to our want of enterprise and generosity. Finally, by renewed subscriptions, it was finished, the German Methodists purchased it, and for a time used it as a college; want of students and lack of funds caused the mortgagee to foreclose, and it became private property. It remained closed until selected by the State for the custodial experiment, which "was to determine whether the need existed for such an asylum; whether there are in the county poorhouses or elsewhere feeble-minded women who need care and protection to prevent them from multiplying their kind and so increasing the number of the dependent classes in the State; also, could they be maintained without undue cost."

In the fall of 1878, the Syracuse Idiot Asylum Trustees secured the services of Mr. C. C. Warner and wife as Superintendent and Matron of the "Custodial," and with two inmates the institution was opened in September, '78, and the "Custodial Asylum for Feeble-Minded Women" was located and placed on trial. In November the number was increased to twenty-seven, others being added continually.

In 1879 the Asylum was visited by Dr. Ireland, who was at the head of a charitable institution in Scotland, and on an inspection tour of the public charities of America. On his return to England, he published in the *British Journal of*

*Science* his views of the "Newark Custodial." After speaking in commendatory terms of the building, location, good health, neat appearance, general condition of the inmates, and moderate cost of maintenance, he says:—"There is no doubt that here we have a difficult question solved in a simple manner. Such an Asylum must be a very useful and beneficial institution, and one which can only be supported at the expense of the State. Viewed from a money point alone, the cost of neglecting them is likely to be greater than the cost of taking proper care of them."

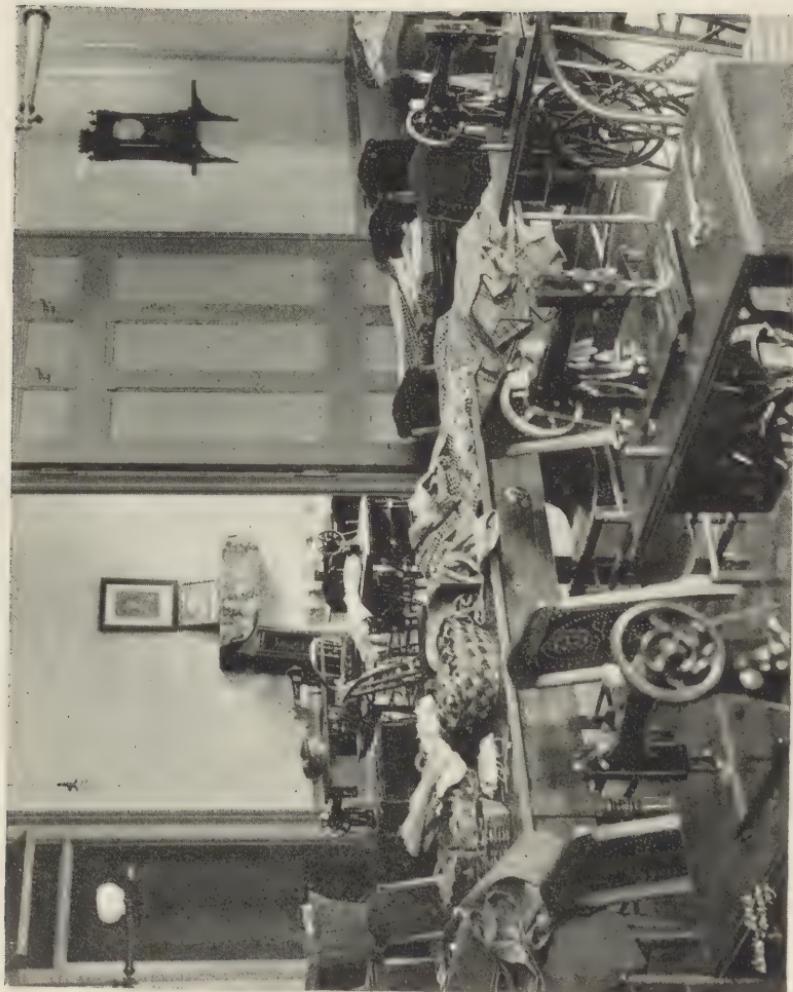
The Committee having special care of the Custodial, in their first annual report, state that Mr. Warner was chosen Superintendent because of his successful experience as keeper of the Onondaga County Poorhouse and Superintendent of the Poor of that county.

The inmates, now numbering 88, as might have been expected in view of the surroundings from which they came and the lives of idleness and neglect which they probably lived, were not a hopeful looking set, either in appearance or conduct; but the able and efficient Superintendent set about organizing and planning to meet their conditions. Those best acquainted know how perfectly he succeeded. Each department of household occupation became a training school, and the most useful inmates are assistants in the necessary work of the institution.

In 1880, the Trustees in charge report that they have no need for special appropriation, unless it be deemed wise by the Legislature to purchase the property at Newark, now occupied on lease.

In 1881, the usefulness of the Custodial had become so marked and well recognised by State and County officials, that a committee was appointed, consisting of the Comptroller, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Trustees of Idiot Asylum, to determine whether the Newark property





SEWING ROOM.

should be purchased, or the lease continued. The Committee recommended the experiment be continued.

Up to 1882, the Syracuse Board, as well as the State Board, had frequently recommended the purchasing of the Newark property. The prosperity of the **Asylum** is noted. The inmates were led to see, by their habits of industry, that they were contributing to their own comfort and enjoyment. Under these influences, and with maturer years, a few of them at least may become capable of caring for themselves, in proportion as their mental and moral sense is capable of being developed.

In the spring of 1883, Dr. Wilber died. He was the founder, and for 33 years Superintendent of the State Idiot Asylum at Syracuse; for five years the Custodial had been under his supervision. In the death of this wise and good man, the Custodial, as a Newark institution, lost a valued friend and hearty supporter. Dr. Wilber was succeeded by Dr. G. A. Doren, of Ohio. The first annual report made under his administration says:—"The experiment in behalf of custodial care should now take permanent and enduring form." "For various reasons, the custodial department should be in the immediate vicinity of the parent establishment"—thus early looking to the removal of the "Newark branch." They obtained large appropriations for repairs; a building was erected instead.

The above report was made to the Legislature of 1884, in which year I had the honor to represent this Assembly district. Feeling a great responsibility, and desiring to represent my constituents faithfully, I considered it my bounden duty to read every document placed on my desk, and make myself thoroughly conversant with every act and resolution offered (I am told all fresh members do this). Among the first department reports circulated was a copy of the annual report of the State Board of Charities, strongly recommend-

ing the purchase of the Newark Asylum, and stating that the recommendations had several times been repeated. This seemed passing strange; I had never heard of it before, and could not learn of but one that had, in the vicinity of the Asylum—the State Board desiring to locate a State institution in our town, and no one aware of it. I thought I had only to make known our readiness to receive such a gift and it would be forthcoming at once. This happy state of mind was somewhat disturbed by the appearance of a Senate bill, introduced by Senator McCarthy. Although innocent in appearance, there seemed to be something suspicious about it. It read:—"An act devolving the care, management and administration of the Custodial Asylum upon the Trustees of the Asylum for Idiots, making the former a branch of the latter."

The Custodial was, in fact, an independent institution, over which they had only a supervisory management, but this act would give them *absolute* control. The bill was somewhat modified by the opposition, in committee, and ordered to a third reading April 24, 1884.

Hon. Mr. Littlejohn, of Oswego, rendered great assistance by introducing the following amendment:—"The sum of \$15,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to purchase the building and premises occupied by said Custodial Asylum, located at Newark, New York. And now the hottest fight of the session was being waged. For two hours, resolutions and amendments were offered and defeated; but on the final vote, the amendment was carried by the close vote of 44 to 42.

The bill as *amended* was then read, and our hopes, so recently elated, were rudely crushed, as the clerk declared the amended bill *lost*. The balance of the session was spent by the Onondaga and Wayne members attending every moment

of every session, for fear advantage might be taken of the others' absence. In the meantime, a bill incorporating the Custodial Asylum had been prepared at my request by Hon. Anson S. Wood, at that time Deputy Secretary of State, a Wayne county man well known to most of you. As the terms of this bill were the main features of Mr. Littlejohn's amendment, it shared the same fate and was "laid on the table" for the session.

The summer of 1884 passed without incident, save that Superintendent Warner declared that the new building being erected at Syracuse was for the Custodial inmates.

In 1885, this district was again represented by a Wayne county member, the Hon. E. K. Burnham. He entered the session as a member of the minority, and fully appreciating the difficulty he must labor under to succeed, as he was determined to do, in the locating of the Custodial Asylum as a permanent State institution for the village of his adoption, his first act was to introduce the bill that had been prepared the previous session. It was referred to the usual committee, and there it rested. Weeks passed by, and still it remained in the committee-room. Some two months had passed by, a mystery seemed to hang over it, the majority of the committee gave little encouragement, and finally he became satisfied that the committee did not intend to allow it to re-enter the Assembly room. Mr. Burnham, not wishing to bear the loss and responsibility of so important a measure alone, insisted that a committee, composed of the originator and friends of the bill in former session, should go before the committee, and, if possible, bring the bill into the House. The committee were asked if they could "resurrect the dead," and, in explanation, were informed that the bill had been "tabled" in committee, and advices sent from our own county that it must not see the light, because the influence of the passage of that bill would give Wayne county a

Democratic judge next fall. After convincing the committee that a Republican majority of 2,000 could not be overcome even by such an influence, the bill was taken from the table and reported to the House next morning. Mr. Hendricks, of Onondaga, headed the opposition, and "he was a foeman worthy of any man's steel." After fierce debate, and the true merits of the bill had been fully demonstrated, opposition almost vanished and only six votes were recorded against it. This practically ended opposition, and the journal clerk, Mr. Almon C. Green, of Palmyra, very courteously handed it over to the Senate, and the Senator from the 28th, the Hon. Thomas Robinson, of Clyde, became responsible for its safe-keeping. He showed himself equal to the emergency, although confronted by Senator McCarthy, one of the strongest men in the Senate. The bill passed the third reading in the Senate in the shortest time allowable by parliamentary law, and was sent to the Governor. His signature in due time was attached, and on the 14th day of May, 1885, one of the noblest charities in the State was permanently established.

The Governor, Hon. David B. Hill, appointed the following Board of Trustees: Hon. David Decker, of Elmira; Rev. M. S. Hard, of Canandaigua (now of Binghamton); Darwin Colvin, M. D., of Clyde; Mrs. Lucy W. Butler, of Syracuse; Mrs. Lucian Yeomans, of Walworth; Mrs. E. C. Perkins, of Newark; Chas. G. Pomeroy, M. D., of Newark; S. N. Gallup, of Macedon; S. S. Peirson, of Newark.

This ended the controversy of an honest difference of interests, and with the establishing of the Custodial, the best of feeling prevailed, and no institutions in the State are more cordial and closely allied to-day than the State Idiot and the Custodial Asylums.

The new Board of Trustees met at the Asylum June 2, 1885, to take charge of their new trust and assume the new

LAUNDRY.





responsibilities placed upon them. The Board organized by electing S. S. Peirson, President; Rev. M. S. Hard, Secretary; S. N. Gallup, Treasurer. C. C. Warner and his wife were retained as Superintendent and Matron, and highly commended for the very high state of efficiency which seems to characterize their work everywhere. Mrs. Yeomans having declined, her successor, Mrs. Helen B. Case, of Rochester, was appointed Trustee. The first report of the new Board of Trustees was made to the Legislature in January, 1886. Plans were submitted and accommodations for 150 additional inmates asked for, and the purchase of 33 acres of adjoining land recommended.

On account of death in Mr. Warner's family, Mr. and Mrs. Warner resigned in March, 1886, and the present Superintendent and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Willett, were elected, and we are glad to be able to report that the standing of the institution has not depreciated. Although not acquainted with institutional life, they showed great adaptability for the work, and the mental and moral training has continued with marked success, and the training departments are thoroughly organized and highly beneficial to the inmates, and make the administration of the institution comparatively easy as compared with the idle and unemployed.

In 1886, the dormitory on the east and the boiler-house were erected, and steam fixtures in the main and east building put in. During the year 1887 our Board sustained the loss of Dr. C. G. Pomeroy, which is mentioned in our third annual report as follows:—"With sadness, we announce the death of one of our Board of Trustees, Dr. Chas. G. Pomeroy. He had been ill for many months, yet he was often able to be consulted as to the interests of the institution, and his valuable advice was always counted important. He declined the re-election of Treasurer and Physician at our last

Board meeting, himself believing that his end was near. He was broad enough to plan well for the present and the future, yet conservative enough not to be visionary or unduly lavish. He will be seriously missed from our councils, and will not soon be forgotten for his professional, social and personal worth." Hon. E. K. Burnham was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The east building being completed, was quickly filled. The Superintendents of the Poor are now well acquainted with the benefits accruing to their unfortunate wards, and applications came pouring in upon us that we could not accept for want of room.

In the year 1888 the laundry was erected and supplied with the best improved machinery for washing and drying clothes. The dormitory on the west was enclosed in 1888, and completed in 1889. The building in which we are gathered to-day is the last one erected and rounds out the cluster of buildings and makes them so complete in themselves. S. N. Keener, of Newark, was the architect of the dormitories, barn, dining-rooms and chapel, and Messrs. Pierce & Doxator the architects of the laundry. Messrs. Chas. Schuman & Co. were the contractors and builders of all the buildings erected. Some two years ago C. H. Perkins was selected by the Board to have an oversight of the grounds and was elected "landscape gardener." The manner in which the lawn, drives and walks are laid out, shrubs and trees are planted, a vegetable and fruit garden provided, bespeak the taste and intelligence exercised.

The number of inmates in attendance to-day is 310. There are now applications enough to fill it to overflowing. The State Board of Lunacy report 1,200 needing custodial care in the State. The Trustees of the Asylum believe that without materially increasing the cost of management, we have room for buildings on our well laid out grounds of

about 40 acres, to provide for 1,000 to 1,200 more. In the erection of these buildings, the aim has been to avoid extravagance, but build as durably and permanently as possible.

I have sketched at length the events that occurred to bring this institution into being, as well as the occurrences since its establishment, and on the completion of this beautiful chapel, it seems very proper that a dedicatory service should be held here and the public invited to inspect it, and, we trust, to enjoy and approve of it; and we assemble this day to ask Divine blessing on this institution and its future work.

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ADDRESS ON WOMAN'S CHARITIES, BY MRS. ALLEN  
BUTLER.

Ancient history presents a picture of the world shrouded in moral darkness, superstition and universal despotism. The principle that might makes right, predominated the earth. A few men wielded the sceptre over the masses. Stuart Mill said:—"I have found it not possible to write the history of any modern country's liberty, without some reference to a cross that once stood outside a Jewish city." From that cross and the sepulchre which for a brief time contained the form of the Crucified One, beamed forth the light destined to enlighten and liberate the souls and bodies of the inhabitants of earth. From that cross a new dispensation was inaugurated, in which woman was to become the equal of man in influence and moral worth. A woman was made bearer of the first message from the Lord of the Universe to His disappointed, discouraged, sorrowing friends, who were to become His ambassadors, bearing tidings of salvation and eternal life to the ends of the earth.

From that era, the progress of light and liberty has been

steadily onward, and at this time we see the civilized nations vieing with each other in methods for the amelioration of the condition of the poor and unfortunate classes. England and America lead in exemplifying the enlargement of the sphere of women, in the cordial co-operation accorded them in these methods. In the cities, organizations of men and women combined, exist for the protection of poor women from unjust dealing from grasping, grinding employers. Aged indigent women are provided with good, comfortable homes for their declining years. Boarding homes for self-supporting young women, who have no friends in the city, are maintained in all the large places. Orphans and the insane have been cared for for many years. The State of New York established the first institution for the care of the better class of idiotic children forty years ago, and the experiment proved so successful in the mental and physical development of many of them, that other states and countries have followed the example with universal satisfaction. There was yet one class of unfortunates found among the county and state charges for whom there seemed no hope for better things in the future—feeble-minded women, who are not able to provide for themselves because not being capable of doing anything without constant supervision, though physically able to perform a large amount of labor under proper direction.

The great cause of idiocy has been found to be *intemperance*. In the wretched homes of the inebriate are found all grades of mental and physical disability. In such families, all who can must help in their support, and where a poor, weak-minded one appears, they soon become a burden greater than even the mother is able to carry, and often in compassion, the neighbors secure the admission of the weak one into the county house, where, in a great many cases, they have been buried for years, so far as the outside world





ONE OF THE DINING ROOMS.

is concerned, but not so with themselves. The county house is not a place for improvement, either physical or mental, but a weak-minded one can be trained to menial service, and can become the victim of heartless abuse. But there was no other place where they could be allowed to exist at all. In our State, no children are allowed to remain in the county houses, after they are old enough to be separated from the mother. But the mothers have no custodial care. When our State Board of Charities began their visits of inspection to the institutions under State supervision, they were surprised at the number of feeble-minded women in the county houses. They found also that most of them were bearing children. Some of them had borne three or four during their stay there—children of the same grade of intellect as themselves, or even lower; and thus the burdens of the State were being increased from within their institutions, to say nothing of the inhumanity suffered by these defenseless ones. This was a subject demanding attention and mitigation. An appeal to State authority was decided upon, and a woman had the courage and the heart to go before a Committee of the Legislature and plead for a home for these poor women, where they could be made useful for their own comfort, and be protected against wrong from others; and with gratitude of heart, we point to this institution as the result of their reply to Mrs. Lowell's entreaties. That which was undertaken as a doubtful experiment at first, has proved a grand success, and an example which has been gladly followed by many other States in our country. England has been attracted by its influence, and representatives from that country have visited this place to see for themselves, others have inquired by correspondence of what could be done for this class of poor humanity, and now similar institutions mark her Christian philanthropy. The constantly improving condition of these wards confirms the wisdom, the jus-

tice, as well as the true Christian kindness that prompted the effort in their behalf. Under the care of Christian teachers, many of them are enabled to comprehend the meaning of a Savior's love, and to know what it is to be children of a loving Heavenly Father. Their poor crushed hearts yearn for sympathy and love; a kindly look, a cheerful smile of recognition seems to thrill them with irrepressible gladness.

The words "father" and "mother" seem very sweet to them, and they are more than happy in being allowed to apply those titles to the Superintendent and Matron. As in our homes, the dearest place in the household is mother's room; so here it is esteemed a great privilege to render any service that may be needed in mother's room, and no greater punishment need be inflicted for any offence than to be shut out of that dear place.

I think I hear some persons ask:—"Do these women have to be punished?" The very reason why they cannot be retained in the homes of their parents is that they must be restrained and disciplined, in order to make them useful and prevent their destroying the peace and comfort of the whole family. But in those homes there are too many conflicting elements beside the absolute necessity of each one being able to toil for daily bread. Those we call feeble-minded usually have a strong *will*, that will not be controlled by anything less than their own physical strength, and that is why the mothers are willing to commit their children to the mercy even of the poorhouse. Cases of this character are brought to our attention very often since the opening of this institution. Only a few days ago, the case of a young girl came to me who must be provided with a home somewhere, or the family would be broken up, for the step-mother could stand the trial no longer. We are appalled at the great number of this class that are reported as found in this State,—not less than 1,200 who need custodial

care to-day. Will they be provided for? Since the State allows the traffic in that which lies at the base of all this trouble to be carried on almost without restriction, is it not imperative that the revenue derived therefrom be applied to the full extent of the need, for the relief, as far as possible, of the innocent sufferers? and is it not the duty of all good men and women to faithfully, and if need be, persistently urge the claims of these feeble-minded women, until they shall all be safely and comfortably housed in custodial asylum, to the credit of the State, and to the praise of that Savior who died on that cross nearly nineteen hundred years ago?

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DEDICATORY ADDRESS, BY REV. M. S. HARD, D. D.

It was not the purpose of those responsible to the State for the care of this institution to render this occasion one for personal commendation. Nor was it our thought, in inviting these honored representatives and officials of the State; these women and men who are no strangers to public life, nor to places of trust and care, relegated to them by the authority of the commonwealth, that we should parade before them our work, and enforce approbation by the law of courtesy. Nor were we simple enough to assume that there was so much to approve in the construction, modernness, utility, or attractiveness of this building we open for use to-day, that there was need of song or speech, of sentiment or response. Our ways here, as you must see, are unpretentious and natural. We have sought to make them so honest that they would stand any light, and have insisted that the laws of business should be put into our methods. But the State, if true to its purpose, works steadily to a principle which is relieved of the caprice and fickleness peculiar to private enterprise. The State takes into its care the en-

tirety of human interest; protects man's inventions; shields his character; sustains his rights in worship; maintains his proper claims to property, and guards the purity of his home. And here let me say, *that it is the duty of the State to be humane*. It is not possible that all who make a commonwealth should be equal in brain-force, in power to construct wealth, or in purity of purpose. The encouragement offered every boy to strive for the presidency is a sophistry. Inequality in mind creates grades in morals. When morals come to minds of low grade, there comes promptly the need of security to society. Now, security comes not alone from courts and governmental orders; from high-walled prisons, and men bearing ponderous keys. That is for protection, after wrongs have ruined. While the State does well to hold strong here, yet, toward those who tread under its ensign, who have brawn, and passion, and weakness, and irresponsibility, it has a mission of humaneness. For those who cannot elect success; who are not responsible for their infirmities; who enter the census-count because they have the form of beings that are human, who are the impersonation of social wrongs, and carry in face and speech and form the tenderest pleadings for protection; toward these, we maintain, the State should exercise the most pronounced humanity. The forms of humaneness we may not consume time to detail, for different grades of need must find adapted forms of relief. The State is the centralizing of social and reformatory and protective forces. It is not fair to predicate that there is absence of mind, because it is undeveloped. This was the assumption of that patient, plodding, skillful man, our late and greatly esteemed Dr. Wilber. For forty years he adjusted himself to the mind that seemed vacant, but which he believed had in it what would respond to tutoring and to care. Without precedent or defined methods, he constructed as he went. He started with the based principle

CORNER OF ONE OF THE DORMITORIES.





that it was unrighteous to leave dormant a mind that might open and be a cheer to its possessor, and a kindly relief to the hearts of kindred. That the misfortune of enfeebled intellect did not relegate the unhappy one to a crowd that should be ignored, uncounted and unimproved, but that opportunities were their right, and bringing to better development the duty of those charged with their care.

Nor is this labor of humanity laid solely upon religious conscience, professional experiment, or private enterprise. We maintain that the State is responsible to every grade of mind, not only in protecting, but in developing as well, and that it is in the line of its allotments, when it uses the best conscience of its private citizens, the uncorrupted judgment of its legislative counselors, and ample funds from its treasury, in the effort to be humane toward the unfortunate that halt within its boundaries.

This leads me to say that it is our conviction, *that the State should originate charities*. A charity has a purpose of gain to one that is needy. And Sir Lytton covered the thought when he said:—"Give to the ignorant our own wisdom! give sorrow our comfort! lend to those who live in crime, the counsels of our virtue! share with souls our souls, and Satan shall despair!" Private charities must have private reasons and purposes. The cases of absolutely disinterested philanthropies will hardly warrant the prediction of a rule. It is human to have back of every effort some latent expectation of return.

The man active at the polls, expects a clerkship or a job. The founder of an orphans' home would not anticipate that the poor would have him at the elections. Private asylums for the unfortunate of any class are established for personal experiment; for opportunity to secure professional repute; or for financial gains. None of these are unworthy, and all may enter into one project; but, is all this in the interest of

the subject for which the charity was originated? I think it was Bossuet who said:—"The spirit of the world encloses four kinds of spirits, diametrically opposed to charity: the spirit of resentment, spirit of aversion, spirit of jealousy, and the spirit of indifference." Now, these will not be superior to the individual around whom the idea of the charity is constructed, if the State projects and maintains the charity.

It has not the greed peculiar to men. Advanced revenues and growing profits are not the methods of the State. It puts time as a large factor into the problem of its efforts. The reasons urged for the State owning and manipulating the postal telegraph system, are just in point why the leading charities of the land should be under governmental control. It is not protection to the better favored alone, nor primarily, but a charity, when the State creates a refuge for the fallen and the blind; for those needing reform, and others with shattered minds; for the foundling and the fatherless; for those needing industrial training, and others who should have a custody because of enfeebled minds.

Private charity often gets weary; is affected by failing fortune; grows sensitive from neglect; is subject to caprice and to temper, and hence the personality in the charity is harmed. But the State has no nerves to strain; no fickleness of wealth; no slights to avenge, and hence it can, if it will, originate great charities and make them broader and better with every opening year.

May I suggest still one more item: *that the humane and charitable institutions of the State are educational.* If a municipality had to do alone with commercial affairs; if to construct was the prime purpose; and if moral and merciful measures were not germain to the governmental problem, our proposition would be illy in place; but the bulk of labor is to supply waste.

A third of a human life is spent in sleep. The doctor gets no feeble amount of many a yearly return. Wood for the winter and hay for the stock consume not a little of the labor of the yeomanry. Thick clothing for the children in the days soon to be here, and a larder filled with items in bulk, is no small study for the plodding housewife. A State is a group of homes. Waste, losses, things to provide, aid to be given perpetually, consumption, with no return by a correspondence in supply—these are a part of the labors of a State. As the State increases in wealth, these demands multiply. They enter into the public plans and thought. They make tender the souls, and more kindly and broad the plans, of those who study the strata of society, from Castle Garden to the Governor's home; from the problem of out-of-door relief, to the manner of expending the treasury's surplussage. Men grow proud of the orphanage, and the hospital, and the home for the aged, which they at first considered an experiment, and doubtful and expensive. The asylum, the custodial, the house of correction, the plans for charities, enter as conscientiously into the legislative thought, as do the harbors, the military, the salaries, the customs, and the arrangement for "ways and means."

Men would resent neglect and interference with care of the State's poor. The presence, in favored places, and with ample maintenance, of these humane and charitable institutions, keeps mellow the public heart, and brings kindly and steadily to mind that all are not grasping and brutish and forgetful.

To-day, my friends, we use a little formality, which is so new to us that we are not entirely graceful, as we dedicate this building to its use and put it to serving a good purpose in one of the grandest charities ever conceived by our noble State. An eminent physician of the west, in a public address, said of this institution:—"It is one of the noblest

efforts that has ever been organized. Every State in the Union should follow this example."

Keep in mind that our wards are not committed from the courts; they do not come for punishment or for penalty; nor yet primarily for correction or improvement. This is solely and alone a custody. From the lecherous, from such as would "creep into houses and lead captive silly women"; from such as would increase an illegal progeny; from those who have no power to resist evil approach, since all forces for good have been routed, in the lack of mind; from allowing the State to heir any farther shame, by lack of watching with a care akin to that of parenthood; from such evils, and for such a good, are we appointed by the State, which has done itself the honor to establish this as the first of its kind in all our nation. May He, whom we ought to serve, make us grateful that ours is such an age, that those from beneath shall be as surely guarded by the commonwealth as those who rest in power and place, and that the charities of our times demonstrate—

" That nothing walks with aimless feet,  
That not one life shall be destroyed,  
Or cast as rubbish to the void,  
When God hath made the pile complete."





